

Caen Hill Locks Trail

Kennet & Avon Canal



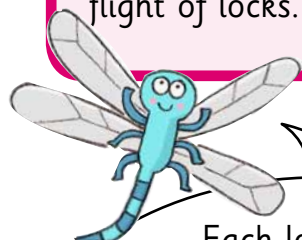
You are a brave and fearless **explorer** in a place called Caen Hill. What wild birds, animals, insects and plants will you discover?



TOP TIPS FOR EXPLORERS

- Be careful what you pick up from the ground
- Stay away from the edge of the water
- Wash you hands after you have finished hunting
- Always return living creatures to their home
- Only take small samples for your collection
- Watch out for plants that sting or prickle

Caen Hill Locks were built over 200 years ago. John Rennie, the canal engineer, wanted the Kennet & Avon Canal to take the shortest route - uphill! To do this, he built a giant flight of locks.



Each lock has a massive side pond that holds as much water as two Olympic-sized swimming pools! Without them, the canal would run out of water. Today, they attract loads of wildlife.

Walk to Stop 1

Find some stony ground, long grass or hedgerow. Collect four small stones and use them to mark the corners of a square of about 30 cms. Find a short stick to gently lift up stones and poke around leaves.

Now fill in your Explorer's Chart.

Activity

1 What I found ...

Where I found it ...

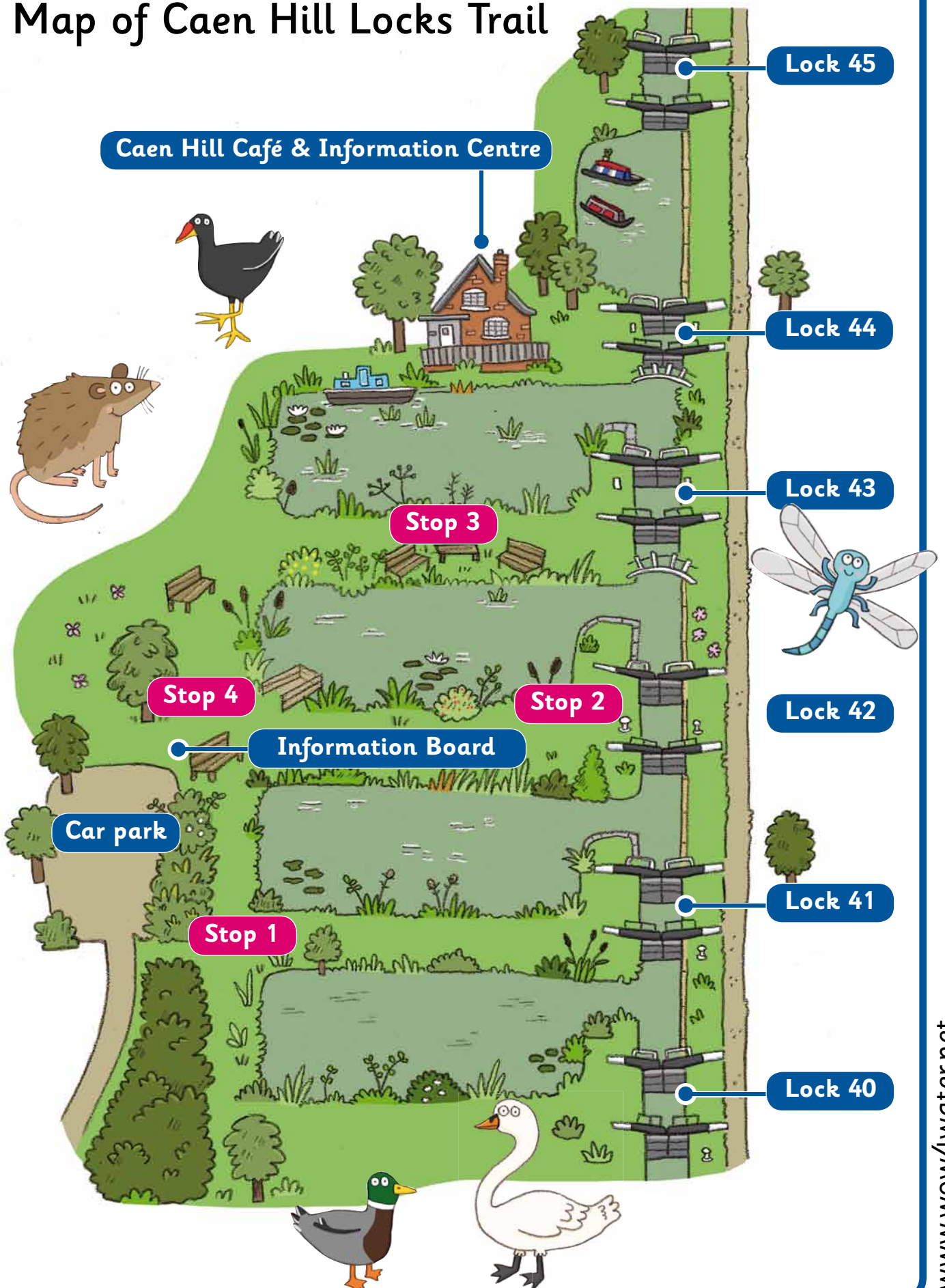
2 What I found ...

Where I found it ...

3 What I found ...

Where I found it ...

Map of Caen Hill Locks Trail



Always remember to stay **SAFE** near water – **Stay Away From Edge**

Make a Museum!

Collect some leaves. Look for long thin ones, large ones, small ones, spotty ones, prickly ones for your own natural history museum.

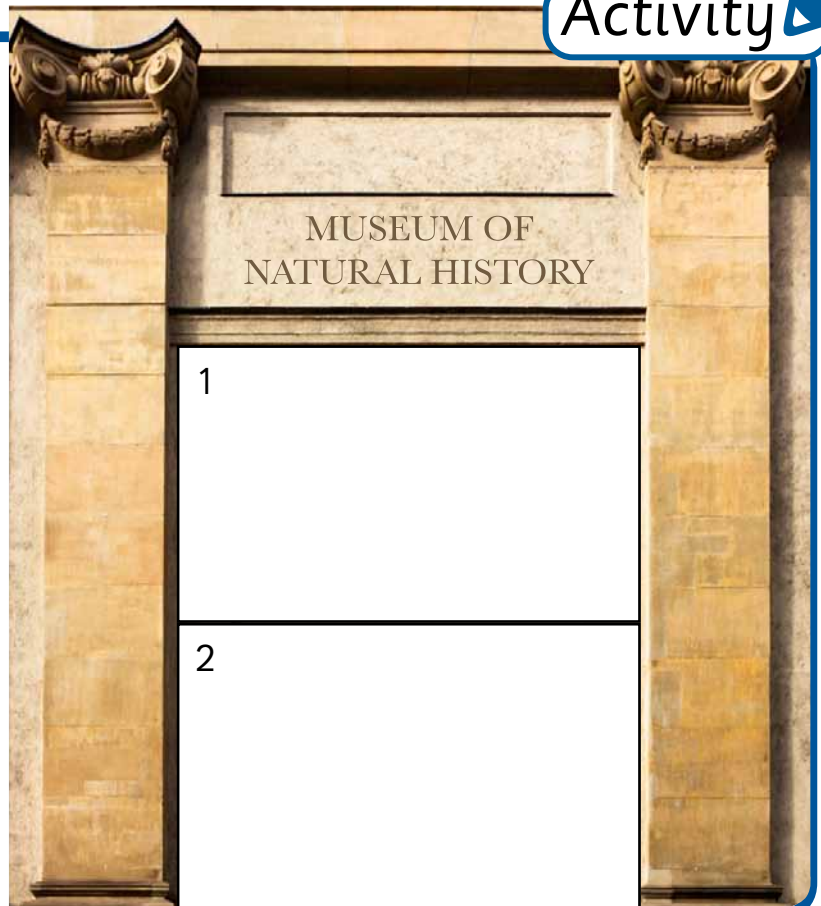
Now draw them in your museum.
Add your name in the top space.

1 I found this leaf near

I collected it because

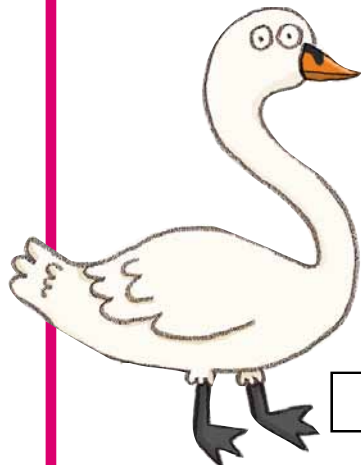
2 I found this leaf near

I collected it because

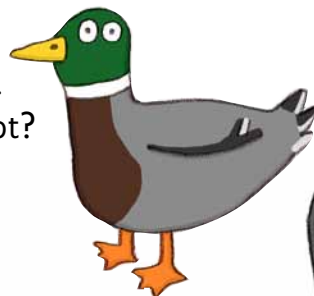


Stop 2

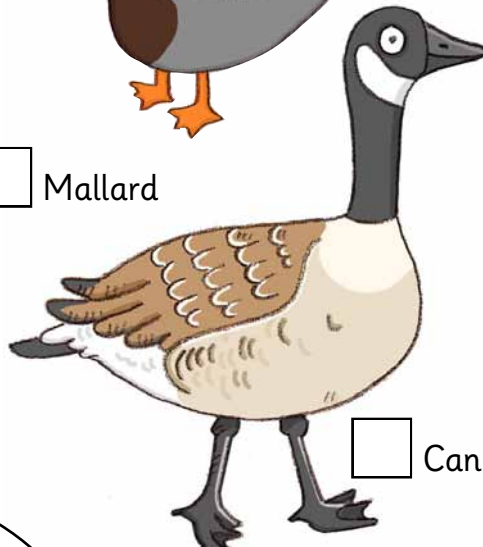
Water birds love the side ponds.
How many of these can you spot?



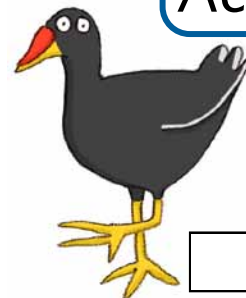
☐ Swan



☐ Mallard



☐ Canada goose

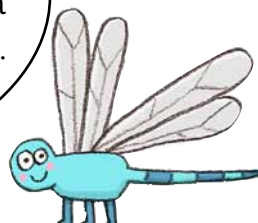


☐ Moorhen



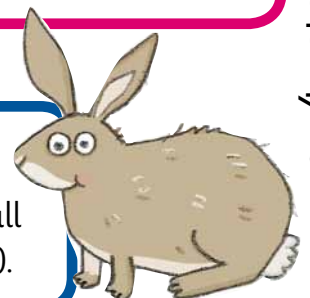
☐ Coot

In the summer,
Caen Hill is a great place to
spot small damselflies or larger
dragonflies. Dragonflies have been
around for over 300 million years.
That's before dinosaurs!



Look

... out for rabbits
or rabbit poo (small
dark round pellets).



Activity

Stop 3

Look on the benches by the top side pond. Can you find the name of the last lock keeper to live in the cottage? His name was

Caen Hill Café was once the lock keeper's cottage. His job was to look after the 16 locks that climb the steep hill.

Listen

Sit on the bench and listen for ...

- ☐ the cries of water birds. Sometimes you can hear them before you can see them.
- ☐ the sound of the wind in the trees and rushes.

The lock keeper's cottage in 1900.



Activity

Would you make a good explorer?

- 1 Do you like spiders, beetles and frogs?
- 2 Are you good at spotting very tiny creatures?
- 3 Can you name at least four different water birds?
- 4 Have you spotted four different types of tree or plant?
- 5 Can you identify at least one bird from its cry or song?

YES	NO
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐

TOTAL

What's the score?

Add up the number of 'yes' answers:
5: You are a brilliant explorer! 4-3 Not too bad; 2-1: Rubbish! You'd better find out more about wildlife.

Stop 4

On your way back to the car park make a rubbing of the dragonfly on the information board. Use a pencil and a piece of paper or the back of this trail.



If you've enjoyed this trail why not do the Devizes Wharf Trail or the Bath Locks Trail? Log on to **wow4water.net** and find lots of other fun things to do with canals!